



AMAZON FIRES

How could this be happening on such a large scale?

By Jefferson Azevedo

In 1992, leaders of many countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to discuss mutual post-Cold War cooperation for international development. Environmental issues were the main topic.

In his speech at that meeting, Fidel Castro warned about the destruction of the Amazon forest. Fidel pointed out that a society based on consumerism is the fundamental culprit, and that it is geared by the old colonial metropolis and the imperialist policies that generated the poverty and underdevelopment that assails the vast majority of humankind. He also questioned what — without the supposed threat of communism and therefore without the pretext for the cold war — what is impeding the rich and developed nations from investing all the resources spent on weapons, to be spent instead on the development of the Third World, with policies that will end hunger, poverty and the ecological destruction of the planet?

The recent fires in the Brazilian part of the Amazon forest are just the latest and biggest blow to the “Green Giant.” After seeing video footage on TV, on social media and on various websites across the globe, people from all parts of the earth have reacted.

All are wondering, how could this be happening on such a large scale? Who is behind it? Why has the Brazilian government been silent about the Amazon rainforest fires since late July and not doing anything concrete to extinguish them?

The silence is due to the government's, although indirect, participation in it. During his presidential campaign, Jair Bolsonaro spoke many times about the necessity to deregulate, loosen and/or simply end many of the laws and regulations that hindered the exploitation of the Amazon.

To the third question, the answer is that it simply does not want to. It wants to let the rainforest burn as much as possible because that is the wish of the big bosses of the agro, meat and mineral businesses. Brazil is the world's largest exporter of beef, soybeans, coffee and sugar. It is also one of the biggest exporters of minerals in their natural form.

In a capitalist economy, such rich and powerful industries gain a lot of control over policymaking decisions. Brazil is no different.

With all the money they have, the agro-cattle business developed the most powerful lobby in the history of the Brazilian Congress: the Rural Lobby or Bancada Ruralista in Portuguese. Among the main goals of the Rural Lobby are the forgiveness of the debts incurred by the farmers, the expansion of arable lands and the end of demarcation of Indigenous people's land, as it consists of one of the main obstacles to the expansion of their business.

The Parliamentary Agricultural

Capitalism is destroying the earth



LOS FUEGOS DE LAS AMAZONAS 12

@ Daniel Bellra/Greenpeace



Combine harvesters crop soybeans Mato Grosso, Brazil.

BRAZIL is the world's largest exporter of beef, soybeans, coffee and sugar.

It is also one of the biggest exporters of minerals in their natural form.

Front (FPA) has around 40 percent of the representatives in its ranks fighting for the interests of the big landowners and big agribusiness. These bosses will go to any lengths or take any measures to achieve their goals, even killing people or burning an area larger than many countries. Nothing is approved, or done, in the Brazilian Congress without the consent of the Rural Lobby.

Former President Dilma Rousseff would not have been deposed on bogus infraction charges and Lula would not have been arrested on trumped up charges without the support of this lobby. Also, Bolsonaro would not have been elected, or would not still be in the presidential palace. This explains his silence and inertia in regards to the fire that has been consuming one of the greatest wonders of this planet and the habitat of a wide variety of living species.

With five million square kilometers, the Amazon forest encompasses an area larger than the European Union and that takes up more than half of the Brazilian territory. Home of twenty-five million inhabitants, one fifth of Earth's plants and animals, and approximately three hundred and ninety billion trees, the Amazon has been under attack since the first colonizer set foot on its soil.

Amazon deforestation — with the use of chain saws or fire — is nothing new to the Indigenous and local people. The Indigenous tribes, on top of

dealing with the invasion of their land and the murder of their people, now have also to fight against the pressure exerted on the authorities to end the demarcation of their land, thus opening the doors even more to the landowners and their goons. Without any representation in the congress, their pleas are heard by only a few.

The deforestation of the Amazon took a dive for ten years during the administration of former President Lula Da Silva and Dilma Rousseff but rose again during the second term of the latter, which coincided with the growth of the Rural Lobby, which elected around 44 percent of the congress.

In 2016, the deforestation had its greatest increase ever with a 29 percent rise. This was right after the coup that ousted Dilma Rousseff, replacing her with Michel Temer, a friend of the oligarchs, who paved the way for the continuation of the destruction of the Amazon that, sadly, continues to burn.

In a study titled “O Futuro Climático da Amazonia,” a Brazilian scientist named Antonio Nobre argues that the trees are more important for the survival of our planet than most people think. Nobre, who is also a member of the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), states that the water that evaporates from the trees, which is pulled from the ground, lowers the atmosphere.

Continued on page 12

INSIDE

‘Mississippi Goddam,’ ICE

PUERTO RICO

ZIMBABWE

VENEZUELA & Big Pharma

Anti-fascist resistance

Hong Kong

Status of women, U.S.

Black August

FREE ALL

Political Prisoners

**FREE
MUMIA
Abu-Jamal**



IRAN

Hiroshima & Nagasaki

CHINA

DONATE!

Keep us in the struggle
Dona y guárdanos
en la lucha

tinyurl.com/donate-struggle-la-lucha

Or send a check. Make checks payable to Struggle-La Lucha and send to: Struggle La Lucha, 703 East 37th St., Baltimore Maryland 21218

You'll find us online, in print and on the radio. Nos encontrará en línea, impresos y en la radio

STRUGGLE-LA-LUCHA.ORG not only reports news and analysis; our editors and writers are revolutionary socialists active in the street against capitalism and imperialism.

SIGN UP to get valuable updates, news & analysis
struggle-la-lucha.org/subscribe



DONATE! tinyurl.com/donate-struggle-la-lucha

Web: struggle-la-lucha.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/strugglelalucha](https://www.facebook.com/strugglelalucha)

Email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

Twitter: [@StruggleLaLucha](https://twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha)

WRITE OR CALL:

East Coast office

2011 N. Charles St.,

Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 443.221.3775

West Coast office

5278 W. Pico Blvd.,

Los Angeles, CA 90019

Phone: 323.306.6240



ICE raids are union busting

Workers' rights under attack

By Sharon Black

Aug. 8 — While the El Paso, Texas, community was still in mourning, deeply shaken and suffering from the racist mass murder, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched the largest single-state raid in U.S. history in Mississippi on seven poultry processing plants. Six hundred and eighty workers were rounded up and arrested.

This raid was timed to come on the first day of the school year, so that many children had to walk home, only to find their loved ones, their mothers and fathers, missing. If anyone has any question of whether or not this is an act of war and terror, listen to the CNN news video or the aftermath.

What is key for all workers to understand is that this raid was calculated payback for workers organizing, and it was aimed at the heart of the movement to unionize the South, which has historically been a cheap source of labor.

Two of the chicken processing plants operated by Koch Foods are organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Union. This same company recently paid out a \$3.75 million settlement as a result of a class action suit that charged Koch Foods with sexual harassment, discrimination based on national origin and race, and retaliation against Latinx workers.

The lawsuit, filed by workers at the Morton plant, said that supervisors touched and/or made sexually suggestive comments to Latinx women workers, hit workers and charged money for normal everyday work activities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration charged Koch Foods \$88,000 in penalties for safety violations that resulted in severe injuries at the Mississippi plant.

Koch Foods also exploited Black

farmers in Mississippi. See the Pro-Publica article: "The shadow of slavery, sharecropping and Jim Crow" has left black farmers in an especially precarious position.

Peco Foods is another company that runs five Mississippi plants. Three — in Canton, Bay Springs and Sebastopol — were targeted by ICE agents.

Workers at the Peco Foods Sebastopol and Canton plants had filed safety complaints, which resulted in OSHA penalties. Peco settled a \$9,550 penalty in 2015 and then was investigated five more times. Workers suffered amputations and fractures.

Peco was also charged with violating the Fair Labor Standards Act by requiring workers to perform "off the clock" work and denying overtime.

It took unbelievable courage for workers to stand up to these brutal conditions and the ICE raid was aimed at breaking their will and determination.

UFCW spokesperson Abraham White said: "Workers across this country are too scared to stand up for their rights and to report wage theft, dangerous work conditions, and other workplace issues. We must act now to end this dangerous climate of fear."

Meatpacking still remains one of the most dangerous jobs, which has gotten worse with speedups introduced through increased automation. It's hard to describe the work environment to anyone who has never worked inside a food processing plant.

Temperatures are cold or freezing depending on what is being produced; water and animal fat frequently make floors slippery and dangerous. Workers risk amputations and machine related injuries that leave lifetime scars.

Koch Foods hires about 13,000 workers in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and Tennes-

'Mississippi Goddam'



see. The company headquarters is in Park Ridge, Ill. It supplies chicken to Walmart, Burger King, Kroger and Aldi markets.

According to the Jackson, Miss., Free Press: "Executives at PECO Foods and Koch Foods have donated at least \$170,000 to the National Chicken Council Political Action Committee, or NCCC, which in turn gives money mostly to Republican politicians. In 2018, the NCCC gave \$190,000 to U.S. House Republicans, and just \$23,000 to House Democrats."

To date, there have been no reports of penalties against these companies. Forbes lists the owner of Koch Foods, Joseph C. Greedy, as being worth \$3.3 billion.

Call a new "Solidarity Day" against racism and bigotry! Defend migrants and refugees!

On September 18, 1981, the AFL-CIO called for a March on Washington, D.C., to defend PATCO, the unionized air controller workers whom Reagan fired. Close to a half million workers participated.

It's time to call for a new "Solidarity Day" against racism and bigotry! Defend migrants and refugees!

Now is the time to organize a major show of workers' solidarity against Trump's anti-worker, racist offensive. We urge the AFL-CIO to

call a national march, whether at the border, in Mississippi or in Washington, to say "No!" to Trump and racism.

The labor movement has been under attack for more than 40 years. Automation and plant closings have cut union membership wholesale. Deregulation by the capitalist government did the same to airline unions and the Teamsters.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka's own United Mine Workers has less than 40,000 members. It once had 600,000. It was the miners that built the mighty CIO during the 1930s.

But the labor movement is like an uncoiled spring with vast amounts of potential energy. Millions of workers want union protection, pay and benefits. Teachers in West Virginia and around the country have been leading the way; Mississippi poultry workers have been standing up.

We remember the wonderful union song and battle cry first popularized by coal miners in Harlan County: "Which side are you on!" We ask the officials of the AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and all of the other unions, that question: "Which side are you on?" The time to fight and defend migrants and refugees is now! An injury to one is an injury to all.

The writer is a former UFCW food processing plant worker.

SLL interviews Puerto Rico Tribunal leader

On Aug. 18, Berta Joubert-Ceci spoke via webinar about the recent developments and challenges in Puerto Rico. Joubert-Ceci is a longtime Puerto Rican activist who initiated the 2018 Puerto Rico Tribunal. PuertoRicoTribunal.org archives the verdict finding the U.S. guilty for its colonial crimes against that nation.



Berta Joubert-Ceci speaking at the Tribunal.

Struggle-La Lucha: Berta, after the hurricane devastated Puerto Rico and after the racist response by the Trump administration, a private chat by the governor and other officials that was anti-woman, homophobic and disparaged poor Puerto Ricans and mocked the suffering was publicly revealed, resulting in huge protests and the governor being thrown out of office. Can you provide some context and analysis for what happened?

BERTA JOUBERT-CECI: The overthrow of Governor Ricky Roselló was not based only on the chat. The chat was the door to open everything that the people have suffered for many, many years.

Particularly, the downturn of the economy, the \$73 billion debt, the fiscal control board imposed by the U.S. Congress to make Puerto Ricans pay off the debt, the hurricane, and the treatment that both the Puerto Rican government and the U.S. government gave the people in Puerto Rico.

The chat content was so vicious, it showed how the capitalists really are. The government officials—the local government which now directly represents the business sector both in Puerto Rico and the U.S.—are leeches that benefit from government funding and even federal funding. They are the vultures that are ripping away the money from the Puerto Rican people, destroying the basic services and getting so rich, yet the people are suffering so much.

There have been layoffs. They want to cut or eliminate pensions. They have been closing many schools, particularly in the poorest sections. Those children will be denied access to quality education, both basic elementary and college education since they aim to destroy the only public university, the UPR — the University of Puerto Rico.

All that was behind the anger that people felt.

SLL: As a longtime activist and organizer in the struggle around Puerto Rico, were you surprised that this huge response happened so suddenly?

BJC: The significance of this is — it's something that is very important that this was not expected. There is a little parallelism with events in the United States. What happened in Seattle, I mean those of you old enough to know what happened in Seattle, and more recently, the Occupy movement that sprang up, and also the Black Lives Matter movement.

But the importance in Puerto Rico is that demonstrations in the streets have always been demonized. Since the beginning of the invasion by the United States in Puerto Rico, the movement—in particular the movement for independence—has been demonized and there was a lot of fear of being seen as terrorists.

Activism in the streets was seen as something that independentistas would do. Because of the history of repression, even relatives of activists would try to dissociate from them. Until now, that kind of action was considered extreme.

SLL: Do you have a view of what kind of people came out to protest? Were they people that had been active in previous periods?

BJC: The word that really captures what people felt was indignation. The indignation was felt very strongly by the vast majority of the population. People who have never been in any demonstration were there. In one instance, for example there was this woman, a much older woman who was a patient of cancer. When she was interviewed by the media, she said: “Well, I’m here. I have cancer, I have metastasis, but I couldn’t stay home, because the indignation is so

brutal that I had to be out in the streets.”

And, this is exactly what people felt.

The fact that these “frat boys” were conducting themselves in that Telegram chat talking against women, against LGBTQ2S people, against the darker people of Puerto Rico, against people with different abilities. They would criticize everybody except their own circle of rich white males.

The indignation was such that the people massively turned to the streets.

We have a population of 3.2 million and there were a million at least demonstrating. Compared to the U.S., where, I think, it's like a little over 300 million population, it's like a demonstration of 100 million in this country.

They were able to overthrow — to get Ricky Roselló out. This is so significant because we always say in the movement that even if it's a small victory, people need to know that their actions can bring victory.

This was a big thing because even in Puerto Rico's Constitution there's nothing like a recall referendum or anything like it. But people would say, “We don't care if it's not lawful or it is not in the constitution, we want him out and we want him out now!”

SLL: How do you think this recent history will shape the future of the movement in Puerto Rico?

BJC: What people are doing now—and this is very important—are people's assemblies. In general, these are not called by organizations. These assemblies are mainly just people putting on social media, “We are meeting in the plaza at 6 or 7 or 8,” whatever time, and people go.

There have been dozens of cities that already have had people's assemblies. People go. There are sometimes hundreds, sometimes dozens, but they have been consistent. So this is very important. They're talking about different things. They're not all the same. But they're dealing with the issues that are pertinent.

It's not only about the chat — that's gone. They want the audit of the debt — not to pay the debt, but to audit the debt. They are saying “No”

to privatization of schools. They want a new constitution. They don't want to close the University of Puerto Rico and of course they're against the corruption and the impunity that permeate the elite government.

This is so new that people who never had been in the streets are involved. It's like a dam that has been ruptured. I think that that's basically the most important thing now. These assemblies cover what kind of future for Puerto Rico people want.

During the demonstrations, it was so beautiful to see all these Puerto Rican flags with the rainbow flag flying together. And Ricky Martin, for example, the very famous singer from Puerto Rico who was one of the many people insulted by the anti-LGBTQ2S insults in this chat, said to Roselló, “I am gay and I'm more of a man than you.”

And, there is also a lot of misogyny in our society, in Latin American society, because of the Catholic culture, so all this turned around with this demonstration. There was more integration and understanding of the women's question. There is really a crisis in Puerto Rico — there have been many women murdered, victims of domestic violence, but the governor never wanted to acknowledge it. So these two things were very important.

There are many serious problems in Puerto Rico. I think the important question that they're dealing with is having a new constitution. Well, Puerto Rico's Constitution was approved by the U.S. Congress and the Congress even took out parts that they didn't want. Basically the constitution is a U.S. constitution.

Puerto Rican people cannot do whatever we want because it's a colonial constitution. Having the constitution as one of the points in the agenda of the peoples assemblies will lead to the contradiction that you cannot change it because it's not a people's government, it is a colonial government.

I think that's a big step forward that eventually will bring people to discuss the necessity of decolonization and independence for Puerto Rico. 🇵🇷



ZIMBABWE Southern African Development Community calls for solidarity on ending illegal sanctions

By Amadi Ajamu

On Aug. 18, the 39th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit of the Heads of State and Government held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, declared Oct. 25, 2019 to be a Day of Solidarity to Lift the Illegal Sanctions Imposed on Zimbabwe. The 16 member states of SADC have resolved to conduct actions in their countries to vigorously work toward this objective.

The SADC Secretariat is reaching out to the African Union chairperson, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, to push the anti-sanctions issue for support by the AU and for it to be discussed at the 74th United Nations General Assembly in Sep-

tember 2019. As Executive Director Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax stated at the summit, “The embargo is militating against economic growth in both Zimbabwe and the region.”

Omwale Clay, spokesman of the December 12th International Secretariat, based in New York, said, “We are clear that this powerful show of solidarity and action by SADC helps to expose the lie that sanctions on Zimbabwe only targeted individuals rather than their real purpose to crash their economy in the hopes of fostering ‘regime change.’”

“These sanctions have challenged the economic growth of Zimbabwe by cutting off its foreign trade, and as a result, created a shortage of foreign currency, which compromises

the government's ability to acquire life sustaining necessities such as medicines, water purification equipment, heavy industrial equipment, fuel and many other necessities — sanctions kill!

“After the fight for independence from the British (Rhodesian) colonizers in 1980, over 80 percent of the arable land was still held by settlers who were less than 5 percent of the population. In 1998, Zimbabwe enacted its land reform program and the land was finally returned to indigenous Zimbabweans who fought and died for it. The ZDERA [the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act] sanctions implemented by the U.S. violate international laws

continued to page 9



Robert Mugabe 1924-2019

Mugabe served as Zimbabwean Prime Minister from 1980 to 1987 and then as President from 1987 to 2017.

Statement from Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa

on Fri., Sept. 6, 2019: It is with the utmost sadness that I announce the passing on of Zimbabwe's founding father and former President, Cde Robert Mugabe. Cde Mugabe was an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten.

U.S. war on Venezuela continues Banks and Big Pharma kill

By Cheryl LaBash

On Aug. 26, OrinocoTribune.com made English readers aware of a callous weapon in the U.S. regime-change assault against the democratically elected Venezuelan government led by Nicolás Maduro.

“The U.S. bank Citibank blocked, in August this year, part of the funds destined to import 300 thousand doses of insulin, a criminal act that affects more than 450 thousand patients, the Venezuelan Ministry of Economy and Finance reported.”

Many diabetes patients require insulin to stay alive. Without insulin to regulate blood sugar, people can suffer other serious health problems, such as heart disease, vision loss and kidney disease, or die from ketoacidosis. Denying insulin may be slower, but is as deadly as a bomb.

In June, Xinhua.net reported that Venezuela planned to buy needed pharmaceuticals directly from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for “all oncological treatments, treatments for patients who have had transplants, patients who require insulin.”

Medicine for the people, not profit

According to Venezuelan Health Minister Luis López: “There is a cartel which places pressure on an international level, but also at the national level. The pharmaceutical companies do nothing for the population, they only operate based on their profits.” Buying medicines through PAHO intends to bypass intermediaries and profiteers, some of whom have been arrested for illicit sales of medicines.

The U.S. economic blockade of Venezuela and the collaboration of

Citibank blocked funds for Insulin, threatening the lives of 450,000 Venezuelan people while BigPharma in the U.S. jacks up prices, resulting in patient deaths

the international banks reinforce the medicine smugglers in Venezuela who profit from the economic situation and then blame the government.

Banks and BigPharma profit, while people die

In the U.S., people are dying from lack of insulin, too. WebMD reports caravans driving to Canada to buy insulin. “We can fly to Canada, stay in a hotel for the night and buy insulin for a year for less than what a three months’ supply here would cost,” an Atlanta writer says.

“By the time the insulin gets from the factory where it’s made until it comes all the way down the chain to the patient, there are a lot of people who touch the insulin, and everyone wants money for touching it,” Irl Hirsch, M.D., says.

In reference to the fight for justice around BigPharma, which has jacked up insulin prices 700 percent in just two decades, Sharon Black, a registered nurse and Peoples Power Assembly organizer, said, “Poor and working class people in the United States have much more in common with the Venezuelan people than with Trump and the big banks.”

She continued, “Imperialist war for big oil profits is killing the people of Venezuela while capitalist greed is killing diabetic patients here at home. In addition, the billions spent on the Pentagon budget here are money siphoned from our cities, schools and health care.”

Sharon Black referenced the case of Josh Wilkerson, who was rationing his insulin because he couldn’t afford the \$1,200 monthly cost. His fiancée and family watched him die from a diabetic coma brought on by high blood sugar. Josh was just 27 years old. The fact is that one in four people in the U.S. cannot afford their medications.

John Parker, representing the Partido Socialista por la Unidad/Socialist Unity Party, added: “Magnify this on a much larger scale and you can see what U.S. imperialism wants to do with the Venezuelan people. It is criminal and we must fight to stop it!”

Parker is also an organizer with the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles and active with the South Central Harvard Street Block Club. His neighborhood faces major disparities in health care as a result of racism against both Black and Latinx residents.

Sanctions are war

OrinocoTribune.com points out that even after payment, delivery of medicine has been blocked and delayed. “The BSN Medical laboratory, based in Colombia, after receiving payment for the purchase of 2 million units of antimalarial treatment, denied the clearance of the drugs.

“The [Venezuelan Health] ministry indicated that this fact caused the Swiss bank UBS AG to block the transactions made by the country with the Pan American Health Or-



ganization (PAHO), destined for the purchase of vaccines for the immunization program.

“Given this circumstance, Venezuela and PAHO sought alternatives with banks from other countries, although this situation led to a four-month delay in the immunization program.

“The national government also revealed that other pharmaceutical transnationals such as Pfizer and Novartis refuse to sell medicines, reagents and supplies to Venezuela.” (Source URL: La IguanaTV translated by JRE/EF)

John Parker responded: “This is part of a criminal war directed against the Venezuelan people meant to increase death and suffering and to encourage Venezuelans to bend to the will of world imperialism led by the United States. The intended targets are the people of Venezuela, including children and youth. Sanctions are war! In fact, they are as lethal as bombs and bullets.”

Citibank’s war on Puerto Ricans

Citibank, which is the 3rd largest bank, following JP Morgan and Bank of America is the main investment bank consultant in the restructuring and privatization of PREPA (Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority), the Washington appointed Fiscal Control Board PROMESA announced in 2018. PROMESA oversees Puerto Rico’s finances. Citibank drove Puerto Rico’s Electric Power Authority into the red and then auctioned it off to the highest bidder. 🇵🇷

PORTLAND: Anti-fascist resistance is not a crime

By Leon Koufax

On Aug. 17, 2019, President Donald Trump took to Twitter to rant about the political left, as he often does. In this particular instance, the racist demagogue called for labeling the anti-fascist movement as a terrorist organization. The president’s comments preceded a confrontation later that same day when alt-right demonstrators came to Portland, Ore., endangering its community. Antifa with broader anti-fascist community forces soundly rebuffed the right-wing hate message politically and in the streets.

In recent years, Portland has been ground zero for resistance against a fascist groundswell. Two prominent right-wing organizations, the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer, have found a foothold of sorts in the Portland area. Subsequently, there has been a corresponding response by progressive forces who refuse to tolerate racism and fascism in their streets.

As the clashes in Portland have continued over the past several years, official documents implicate police targeting of anti-fascist activ-

ists and near sympathy for the violent right-wing extremists. Recently released police communications demonstrate the specific targeting of left-wing activists engaging in self defense at an August 2018 event. Further, the Portland Police department is shown going to serious lengths to ensure the alt-right’s “free speech” and “right to bear arms” were protected. However, progressive forces have not received this same protection from the police.

Donald Trump’s Aug. 17 rhetoric and law enforcement bias against the left harkens back to similar dynamics that developed after the events in Charlottesville, Va., in August 2017. Beyond Trump’s comment about “good people on both sides,” FBI documents revealed a new effort to target so-called “black identity extremists” was under way, ignoring the white supremacist alt-right fanned by Trump’s pronouncements.

This is particularly stirring when considering the level of right-wing violence perpetrated during the Charlottesville saga. All of this tells us that the view of the ruling class and their police forces is very clear: left-

wing militant resistance is criminal and neo-Nazi violence is acceptable.

What becomes even more stunning about this is the level to which this rationale flies in the face of history. It has been shown again and again that most acts of terrorism in the United States are perpetrated by white supremacists. The list of these crimes is tragic and includes the murder of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, the fascist attack on the El Paso Latinx community, the fatal stabbing of Ricky John Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche in Portland and many more. Even with all this hate and pain, the right wing is given a pass by government officials and law enforcement. Yet, the injury of one alt-right provocateur journalist at a demonstration is touted as demonstrating the supposedly unacceptable violence of progressive forces. This double standard is appalling.

Anti-fascism is not terrorism. Militant resistance against racism should not be criminal. On the other hand, neo-Nazism is the very essence of terror. When neo-Nazis march in our streets, they march in

support of violence against all oppressed communities: Black people, Brown people, Indigenous people, LGBTQ2S people, Jewish people, Muslim people, all immigrants and all workers. Their hate has no bounds and in many ways reflects the true agenda of many in the ruling class. The alt-right movement is not only a shocking expression of racism and hate, but is also a political movement that has its origins in the ideology of big business and ruling-class politicians like Donald Trump.

Progressive resistance against the movement of hate is a stirring and heroic effort against racism in our communities as well as the capitalist oppression that causes it in the first place. All progressive organizations and individuals must support anti-fascist resistance and militant anti-racism. Wherever these fascists march, whether in Portland or Charlottesville or London, they will and should be met by communities unwilling to accept their hate.

Koufax is a Jewish communist and writer for Struggle-La Lucha who has participated in many anti-fascist demonstrations.

Behind the anti-China protest in Hong Kong

By Scott Scheffer

Hong Kong executive Carrie Lam has officially withdrawn the bill that would have created an extradition treaty between Mainland China and Hong Kong. Its withdrawal was the initial demand of the destructive and violent U.S.-backed protests in Hong Kong which are now entering their fourteenth week.

The bill had already been suspended in June, but by then the demands of the protests had already morphed into a push against Hong Kong being part of China. Numerous organizations with close connections to, and funding by, the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED) have been central in the fight against the “One country – Two systems” agreement. The NED is a de facto arm of the CIA. The Chinese leadership has demanded that the United States end its support and funding for the protestors.

Even as protestors’ numbers begin to dwindle and hopes for another “major” protest on Sept. 4 were dashed because of its cancellation, the level of violence has continued.

The Western press often romanticizes “the movement,” referring to it as “leaderless,” but among the reasons cited for the cancellation of the protest was that Joshua Wong, a longtime mouthpiece of imperialist-friendly politics, along with Agnes Chow and 5 others, was arrested on Aug. 30. Chow and the others are the most prominent among a handful of Hong Kong activists who continue guiding the protestors toward the imperialist goal of separating Hong Kong from China. Photos of Chow and Martin Lee, a cohort, in a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and another of Chow alongside a smiling U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio have circulated on social media in recent weeks.

Calm had been restored at the Hong Kong International Airport in mid-August after a violent mob touted by the U.S. and British im-

perialist press as “peaceful protestors” had occupied the airport and all flights had been cancelled.

During the two-day siege, they had beaten two men into unconsciousness. The first victim is a journalist for the Chinese news outlet, Global Times. His hands and feet were bound and he was tied to a luggage cart while he drifted in and out of consciousness, and the “protesters” blocked emergency medical personnel from aiding him for four hours.

Another man, suspected of being a policeman from mainland China, was also beaten into unconsciousness. A Hong Kong policeman was attacked, kicked and punched until he finally drew his weapon out of fear for his life. Many of the protestors flew U.S. flags and held signs appealing to Donald Trump.

Since then, an injunction has supposedly prevented the protestors from paralyzing the function of the airport. But last week, protests at the causeway connected to the airport saw smaller crowds blocking the road, throwing firebombs at the Hong Kong police and lighting barricades on fire.

In July, the Hong Kong Legislature was badly vandalized, and a Hong Kong police station was attacked and lit on fire. The hurling of bricks and gasoline bombs and the defacing of symbols of the Chinese revolution have been frequent occurrences.

One protester reported to the New York Times how she was inspired by the “anti-Russian protests in Ukraine in 2014,” which led to the rise of a fascist government there.

Western media have ignored Hong Kongers who oppose the U.S.-backed protestors. The Hong Kong Free Press reported on an Aug. 17 pro-Beijing rally of almost a half million in central Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is China

Hong Kong was seized from China in 1842 by the British in the first of the “Opium Wars,” fought by the British Empire to impose the opium



Protesters in Hong Kong call for Trump's support.

trade on China. For over a century, China was ravaged by drug addiction and imperialist exploitation.

In popular parlance before the revolution, the very name of China was synonymous with hunger.

Since China's 1949 revolution threw out the imperialists and began the task of building a socialist economy, drug addiction, homelessness, illiteracy, hunger and joblessness are distant memories. Some 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty in recent decades in what the United Nations acknowledges as a stunning achievement by any standard of social progress.

After negotiations that lasted well over a decade, Hong Kong was repatriated with China in 1997 as a semi-autonomous region. By agreement, capitalism may operate freely there until 2047.

Hong Kong's proximity to mainland China has enabled its growth as a center for finance capital and a leader in global shipping. Hong Kong has among the highest percentage of billionaires in the world.

A broadcast by SBS, an Australian public broadcasting service, is entitled “How Hong Kong Is Home to the Crazy Rich and the Mega Poor” and illustrates clearly how the working class has sunk deeper into poverty, with the elderly enduring the worst

that capitalism dishes out. Many thousands live in tiny squalid living spaces barely big enough to lie down in and collect trash for recycling to try to raise enough money for food. Their plight has been totally ignored by the U.S. media.

Keeping Hong Kong separate has been important to the U.S. operations against China for decades. One former CIA agent even admitted that “Hong Kong was our listening post.”

A China Daily report, “Who is behind Hong Kong protests?” quotes former Reagan administration official Michael Pillsbury, whom Trump refers to as the world's leading expert on China: “We have also funded millions of dollars of programs through the National Endowment for Democracy ... so in that sense the Chinese accusation is not totally false.”

An editorial in the mainland publication People's Daily Online summed up: “The radical protestors intend to force the central government to give up governance over Hong Kong ... and give the city back to the Western world. ...

“The Chinese government will never allow extreme opposition and the West to pull Hong Kong into the anti-China camp, nor will it allow the city to slip into long-term chaos or become a base for the West to subvert China's political system.”



JORNADA CONTINENTAL POR LA DEMOCRACIA Y CONTRA EL NEOLIBERALISMO

HAVANA CUBA
NOV 1 3

The Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) and the Cuban Chapter of Social Movements and Continental Conference for Democracy and against Neoliberalism invite everyone on the frontlines of struggle

ANTI-IMPERIALIST MEETING OF SOLIDARITY, FOR DEMOCRACY & AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM

For group and other registration information, email to: ICanGoToCuba@nnoc.info

The status of women in the USA

Greetings comrades and friends, I bring you solidarity and love from *Mujeres en Lucha* and the *Socialist Unity Party* in the USA.

“The status and condition of women workers in the capitalist United States continues to be highly exploitative and dismal. While 46.9 percent of the U.S. total workforce consists of women, we still remain in the lowest paid jobs such as food service, clerical, factory and health care. In 2019, women still earn 79 cents for every dollar that men make.

“Nevertheless, women workers recently led the most dynamic union struggles, including the teachers’ uprisings from West Virginia to Los Angeles. In this case, teachers, sometimes without traditional union backing, conducted strikes and refused to back down until they won.

“Fast food women workers at McDonald’s restaurant chain challenged common on-the-job sexual harassment and assault by conducting a one-day strike in ten different cities. Most of the workers are poorly paid; they are primarily Black, Latinx and immigrant workers.

“Migrant East African women played a key leadership role in the July 15 strike of Amazon warehouse workers at the Shakopee, Minn., fulfillment center. Hibaq Mohamed, who is one of the leaders of the strike that took place during Amazon’s Prime Day, was one of those women who braved bosses, police and security guards to help lead a walkout over grueling production levels. She is just 26 years old,” reports former Amazon worker Sharon.

“Many of our sisters are still facing oppression and are often ostracized by their family and communities. Depression, substance abuse and poverty are still the norm for Latinx lesbians! Latinas face racism in the U.S., and as lesbians we face multiple oppressions. We continue to fight back, defending and protecting our sisters everywhere,” reports Celenia T., a Latina lesbian activist.

Report by Lizz Toledo to the World Steering Committee of WIDF/FDIM (the Women’s International Democratic Federation/Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres)



Lizz Toledo, with fist raised, at the WIDF/FDIM in Windhoek, Namibia.

“As capitalism decays, fewer good-paying jobs than ever are available to young women, especially women and queer people of color and immigrants. Extreme lack of economic opportunity has left many young women underemployed or unemployed and unable to access basic needs, including health care and education.

“The Trump administration has cut back abortion rights and access to contraceptives. Multitudes of young women and queer people find themselves going into massive debt to fund their educations, even as university degrees become more and more devalued by the day.

“There is an epidemic of sexual violence and gender-based violence against young women and queer people that continues to grow. Transgender people, Black and Brown women, migrant women, and Indigenous women are murdered

and go missing every day.

“Mental illness and trauma are common, and health care is unavailable, so young women and queer people have even more difficulty being productive under capitalism. These obstacles disproportionately affect women of color, Indigenous women and girls, and LGBTQ2S young people.

“As socialists, it is our duty to fight back. We are educating the masses of young women and queer people about the root cause of their oppression, which is not working-class men, but rather the capitalist system that robs young women workers, and all workers and oppressed people, of their basic rights and opportunities.

“We wish to spread a collective vision of a society where young women and girls are empowered and have the tools to achieve full liberation from patriarchy, all forms of gender and sex-based violence, and capital-

ist exploitation. Now is the time for young women, girls and LGBTQ2S people of the working class to unite in struggle,” says Miranda from *Mujeres en Lucha* and *Youth Against War & Racism*.

The status of women in the United States continues to be one of struggle. Women have been and continue to be in the frontlines of all people’s fights for liberation. We are union workers fighting to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and fighting for equal pay. We are in the Im/migrant Rights movement demanding that family separations end and to abolish the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) police.

While in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, communities buried their dead from racist mass shootings, the U.S. government arrested 800 workers at their jobs in Mississippi chicken processing factories. Their children were left without their parents on their first day of school, but the racist billionaire owners exploiting these workers were not arrested for hiring undocumented workers.

We are in the streets demanding an end to mass incarceration and to abolish the oppressive police system that only serves the rich and powerful, who continue to kill Black and Brown youth at will and with impunity.

We are among the fighters for LGBTQ2S liberation. Stonewall 50 was celebrated this past June 30 in New York City, as delegates from around the world came to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the modern-day LGBTQ2S movement.

We organize and fight to end sexual and domestic violence of any kind directed at women and young girls. We are anti-war and anti-imperialist. Even with the boot of U.S. imperialism on our necks, we continue to defend Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Cuba and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea against U.S. aggression. End imperialist wars! Long live the international working class! 🇵🇸

Situación de las mujeres en EUA

Saludos camaradas y amigas, traigo solidaridad y amor de las *Mujeres en Lucha* y del *Partido de Socialismo Unido* en Estados Unidos.

“La situación y la condición de las mujeres trabajadoras en el capitalista EEUU continúa siendo miserable y de explotación. Aunque el 46,9% de la fuerza laboral total son mujeres, nos mantenemos en los trabajos peor pagados como el servicio de comida, oficinas, fábricas y asistencia médica. En el 2019, las mujeres todavía ganan 79 centavos por cada dólar que ganan los hombres.

“Sin embargo, mujeres trabajadoras recientemente dirigieron las luchas sindicales más dinámicas, incluyendo las revueltas de maestras/os desde West Virginia hasta Los Ángeles. En este caso, las maestras, a veces sin ayuda de los sindicatos tradicionales, dirigieron paros y rehusaron volver al trabajo hasta que ganaran.

“Trabajadoras de comida rápida en la cadena de McDonald, retaron el acoso y abuso sexual recurrente, conduciendo un paro de un día en 10

ciudades diferentes. La mayoría de las trabajadoras está mal pagadas, y en su mayoría son negras, latinas e inmigrantes.

“Mujeres migrantes de África oriental jugaron un papel fundamental en el paro del 15 de julio de trabajadores del depósito de Amazon en el centro de distribución en Shakopee, Minnesota.

“Hibaq Mohamed, una de las líderes del paro en Amazon Prime Day, fue una de las mujeres que enfrentó patronos, policía y guardas de seguridad para facilitar una huelga contra los niveles de producción agotadores. Ella tiene solo 26 años,” reporta la ex trabajadora de Amazon, Sharon Black.

“Muchas de nuestras hermanas todavía enfrentan opresión y a menudo son marginadas por sus familias y comunidades. ¡La depresión, el abuso de sustancias y la pobreza siguen siendo la norma para las lesbianas latinas! Las latinas enfrentamos el racismo en Estados Unidos y como lesbianas enfrentamos

múltiples opresiones. Continuamos luchando, defendiendo y protegiendo a nuestras hermanas en todas partes,” informa Celenia T., una activista lesbiana latina.

“Mientras que el capitalismo decae, hay menos empleos bien remunerados que nunca disponibles para las mujeres jóvenes, especialmente las mujeres y las personas cuir de color e inmigrantes. La extrema falta de oportunidades económicas ha dejado a muchas mujeres jóvenes subempleadas o desempleadas e incapaces de acceder a las necesidades básicas, incluida la atención médica y la educación.

“La administración Trump ha reducido los derechos de aborto y el acceso a anticonceptivos. Multitudes de mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir se encuentran endeudadas por financiar su educación, incluso cuando los títulos universitarios se devalúan cada vez más.

“Hay una epidemia de violencia sexual y violencia de género contra mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir que

Informe de Liz Toledo al comité directivo mundial de la FDIM/WIDF (Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres / Women’s International Democratic Federation)

continúa creciendo. Las personas transgénero, las mujeres negras y marrones, las mujeres migrantes y las mujeres indígenas son asesinadas y desaparecen todos los días.”

“Las enfermedades mentales y los traumas son comunes, y la atención médica no está disponible, por lo que las mujeres jóvenes y las personas cuir tienen aún más dificultades para ser productivas bajo el capitalismo. Estos obstáculos afectan desproporcionadamente a las mujeres de color, a las mujeres y niñas indígenas y a los jóvenes LGBTQ2S.”

“Como socialistas, es nuestra obligación luchar. Estamos educando a las masas de mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir sobre la causa de su

Continúa a página 11

Honoring our ‘Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to 2019’

By Gloria Verdieu

The Black August Organizing Committee has sponsored a Black August program for the last three years at San Diego’s Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center.

This year is of particular significance because this is the 400th year anniversary since the arrival of the first captive, enslaved, African laborers to the English colony of Jamestown, Va. Jamestown is where “a society with slaves was transformed into a slave society,” as stated in an article in *Struggle-La Lucha* newspaper written by professor Matsemela Odom of the San Diego Community College District, Black Studies Department.

Our theme for Black August 2019 was “Honoring our Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to the Present.”

After welcoming everyone to the Malcolm X Library, the present reporter began the program with a slide presentation that chronicles the history of oppression, struggle and resistance for African Americans, highlighting events in August beginning with the assassination of George L. Jackson.

Black August is directly linked to the memory of George Jackson and his teenaged brother, Jonathan Jackson. We emphasized that Black August was created by incarcerated Black people in order to commemorate the lives lost in the struggle for Black liberation.

The Performance Annex was decorated with posters honoring Black freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for freedom and justice for future generations: George Jackson, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, exiled political prisoner Assata Shakur, and photos of people killed by the police in San Diego. And books about Black liberation movements were also on display. Our intent was to spark the interest of all who came to the library and encourage people to read more to learn more about the history of our ongoing struggle, especially in this current racist climate.

The first presenter was Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan of San Diego State University’s Department of African Studies. He spoke on 400 plus years of struggle from the first African to arrive in the Americas to the present. He began his talk asserting, “[The beginning] is not about 1619 or the Jamestown Colony.”

Dr. Adisa asked if anyone had visited Ft. Mose, Fla. He explained that the first free African settlement to legally exist was at Ft. Mose. He pointed out that the first Africans who came to the New World did not come as slaves, as in Jamestown in 1619, but on ships with Spanish conquistadors and adelantados [governors] in the mid 1500s. Dr. Adisa had this to say about the first Africans to arrive in Jamestown: “The first Africans in Jamestown arrived as captives and later became indentured servants.”

After a powerful poem presented by Sylvia Telafaro entitled “Reparations,” the next speaker was Dr. Mychal Odom, who spoke about honoring our ancestors’ sustaining struggle. Dr. Odom explained that many Africans gained freedom, land

and status in the early years of the Virginia Colony.

One prime example that has been cited by historians is the story of Anthony Johnson, a native of Angola, who had likely been previously enslaved in the Caribbean. His story exposed the contradictions of early colonial society. Johnson was eventually manumitted, and he then acquired land, wealth and owned an indentured labor force of his own. Johnson struggled against white power, including efforts by a white neighbor to use the courts to steal his property. By the end of his years, Johnson and his family had their “relative equality” revoked. Deemed foreigners and not citizens in Virginia, they were exiled to Maryland.

After Dr Odom’s presentation, there was a short break to allow for everyone to help themselves to a spread of homemade food donated by community members who support the programs at the Malcolm X Library as we transitioned to the subject of political prisoners and our next group of speakers from the many grassroots.

First, there was a video clip of former political prisoner Sekou Odinga, who came to the Malcolm X Library in February of 2016 with a message: “Support political prisoners and free them all.” Next was a slide presentation on political prisoners, encouraging everyone to see the faces and names of those prisoners who have been in prison for 30, 40 or 50 years. The reader of this report can find out more about them by visiting thejerichomovement.com/prisoners.

The next set of presenters, all of whom work in local organizing, spoke on issues affecting our communities now! Laila Aziz, a community activist, spoke about “participatory defense,” prison advocacy and the amazing work her group is doing, supporting and advocating for families in crisis in San Diego. Aziz made references to many of the political prisoners in the slide presentation – echoing Odinga by saying we need to support political prisoners, many of them in solitary confinement. She



SAN DIEGO
Commemorates
BLACK AUGUST

spoke of the struggle of Ruchell Magee, co-defendant of Angela Davis, who has been in prison for 56 years.

Carl Muhammad of the Committee Against Police Brutality spoke about the Erasing Police Violence Forum that CAPB is organizing and the importance of establishing a community-elected police review board. Author and community activist Curtis Howard spoke about life after incarceration and about breaking the myths associated with prison life.

The last speaker, not listed on the program, was Tasha Williamson, candidate for mayor of San Diego. Williamson took the floor to remind people that they have a choice. She is calling for police accountability. Williamson said that one of the first things she will do when elected mayor

Continued on page 11

Free all political prisoners!

By Stephen Millies

People around the world rejoiced when Nelson Mandela walked out of an apartheid concentration camp in 1990 after nearly 28 years of hell. Yet political prisoner Ruchell Cinque Magee is still in jail after 56 years in California prisons.

Just as the United States has the largest jail population on earth—2.2 million people—its political prisoners are serving the longest sentences, too.

On Aug. 24, the auditorium of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center in East Elmhurst, Queens, N.Y., was filled for the 24th Annual Dinner Tribute to Political Prisoners.

Organized by the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee and the National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party, the event raises funds for freedom fighters held in U.S. prisons and brings attention to their cases.

Among those in the audience were former political prisoners, including Janet Africa and Janine Africa of the MOVE 9, who have just been released from jail after 41 years of imprisonment. Pam Africa and other members of the MOVE family also attended the event. Their comrades Chuck Africa and Delbert Africa are still imprisoned. After 40 years, Debbie Africa and Mike Africa Sr. were freed last year.

Known as “the Voice for the Voiceless,” noted journalist and author Mumia Abu-Jamal has been imprisoned since 1981, with 29 of those years on Pennsylvania’s death row. Prison authorities refused to treat his hepatitis C condition until a mass campaign forced them to do so. Now, lack of medical care has Jamal fighting blindness. Although banned from liberal National Public Radio and other corporate media, Mumia’s



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

commentaries and the voices of other prisoners can be heard on Prison-Radio.org and Pacifica radio stations like WPFW 89.3 FM’s Voices with Vision program.

According to Mumia Abu-Jamal’s physician, Dr. Joseph Harris, people in prison age much faster than those outside the walls. That’s all the more reason to free them.

Black Panther Party member Ed Poindexter has been in Nebraska prisons for 49 years. Black Panther Jalil Muntaqim has spent 47 years in jail. Black Panther Sundiata Acoli is 82 years old and has been jailed for 46 years.

Seventy-five-year-old American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier has been incarcerated for 44 years. Although in very poor health, Peltier, now imprisoned in Florida, was even refused a transfer to Wisconsin, 1,300 miles closer to his family.

It was vile that Black Panther Party member Herman Wallace spent nearly 42 years in solitary confinement at Louisiana’s Angola prison only to die from liver cancer three days after being released. His comrade Albert Woodfox is now free af-

ter spending 43 years in “the hole.”

Former Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee chairman Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, then known as H. Rap Brown, will soon be 76 years old and has been locked up for 19 years.

Black Panther Kamau Sadiki was framed and served a prison term in the 1970s. After getting out, he went back to school and worked for 18 years as a telephone worker and member of the Communication Workers of America. But in 2003, he was sentenced to life imprisonment after being framed for the killing of an Atlanta policeman 32 years before.

Sadiki was jailed because he refused to cooperate with authorities in a scheme to lure Assata Shakur out of asylum in Cuba. The pigs told Kamau Sadiki that if he didn’t help them capture Shakur, he would die in prison. Kamau Sadiki was already suffering from liver diseases when he was arrested.

We need a mass movement to free all political prisoners and bring them home to their families. Prisons are concentration camps for the poor.

For more information about political prisoners see: [/thejerichomovement.com/](http://thejerichomovement.com/)

Washington's long war in the 'Middle East' It's not the oil, it's the money

'Only Iran-U.S. tensions supporting crude oil prices; outlook bearish'

— Economic Times, July 23, 2019

By Bill Dores

"Only Iran-U.S. tensions supporting crude oil prices; outlook bearish" Economic Times, July 23, 2019

U.S. warships are not prowling the coast of Iran to protect navigation and the free flow of oil. That's a lie. For decades, Washington has used wars and sanctions to stop the flow of any oil or gas not owned by U.S. corporations.

The name of the game is monopoly. It's a global version of what John D. Rockefeller did when he set up the Standard Oil trust—ancestor of ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco—in the 1870s. But much, much bloodier. Rockefeller's goons sometimes torched or dynamited competitors' drilling rigs and refineries. The Pentagon and its proxies have murdered hundreds of thousands of people in the past 30 years to keep the world's energy revenues flowing to U.S. banks and corporations.

The U.S.-Israel-Saudi axis

Who are those proxies? First and foremost, the racist state of Israel and the brutal House of Saud. Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, called Israel "the biggest U.S. aircraft carrier in the world and the only one that can't be sunk." The Zionist state has been in a state of war since it was created on the stolen land of Palestine. And every war it has waged has benefited U.S. corporate interests.

Saudi-occupied Arabia is a U.S. tribute state, a cash cow for U.S. banks, and oil and arms companies. So are the other five kingdoms on the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. For decades their ruling families have put their oil revenues and production policy at the service of Wall Street and Washington.

Saudi ARAMCO, the world's richest oil company, was originally the Arabian-American Oil Company. Now, it is supposedly owned by the Saudi royal family. But its top executives are U.S. and British citizens. Four Western monopolies—ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP and Shell—control and market its output. U.S. bankers invest the kingdom's oil revenues, and U.S. contractors run its military.

The Saudi kingdom is the biggest overseas customer of the U.S. military-industrial complex. For the past four years the kingdom has used its U.S.-made weaponry to murder and starve the people of neighboring Yemen. The United Nations has described the situation in that impoverished land as "the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world." President Trump has vetoed two congressional resolutions to limit U.S. involvement in the war. The Senate upheld the vetoes.

The United Arab Emirates, also involved in the war in Yemen, is the world's third biggest purchaser of



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Youth Against War and Racism protests U.S. war threats and sanctions against Iran.

U.S. arms. General Dynamics keeps an F16 production line open to fill a contract from Bahrain. On July 27, Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifa family executed two young pro-democracy activists, Ahmad al Malali, 24, and Hakim Al Arab, also 24, who had been tortured and convicted with 56 others in a mass trial. Bahrain is under Saudi military occupation. It is also home to the U.S. Naval Central Command and the U.S. Fifth Fleet, whose ships are off the coast of Iran.

Why they hate Iran

Before the 1979 Revolution, the Shah of Iran was the U.S. arms industry's biggest overseas paying customer and Chase Manhattan Bank's largest depositor. At Henry Kissinger's request, the shah bailed the U.S. arms industry out of the slump that followed the end of the Vietnam War.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi ("King of Kings, Shadow of God, Light of the Aryans") was put on the throne by British troops in 1941. The CIA kept him on it. In 1953, as the monarch hid out in Rome, a CIA-organized coup overthrew Iran's elected prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh. Mossadegh's government had nationalized Iran's then British-owned oil industry. The grateful shah cut the Gulf Oil Company, now part of Chevron, in on Iran's oil reserves. And Kermit Roosevelt, the CIA agent who ran the coup, became a vice president of Gulf Oil.

The 1979 Revolution, which threw out the shah, ended Iran's subservience to Washington and Wall Street. The country's oil revenues no longer went into U.S. bankers' pockets. The Islamic Republic has been on Washington's enemy list ever since.

There are a lot of differences between Islamic Iran, Bolivarian Venezuela, Baathist Iraq, Jamahiriya Libya and Putin's Russia. But in the eyes of the U.S. ruling class they are all guilty of the same sin: using their oil revenues for their own interests and not those of Wall Street.

Something more urgent than greed for lost tribute drives the

Trump regime's desperation to confront Iran. It's the same thing that drove the U.S. to attack, sanction and invade Iraq, sanction Venezuela and Russia, bomb Libya and launch proxy wars in Syria and Ukraine. It's the desperate struggle of capital against that crisis unique to the capitalist system, what Karl Marx called "an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity — the epidemic of overproduction."

The 'end of history' and endless war

Let's go back 30 years, to the summer of 1989. The so-called Cold War, which was hot and bloody in most of the world, seemed to be ending. The Soviet Union was imploding under the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. Politicians promised a "peace dividend" as military budgets would supposedly be slashed. A State Department employee named Francis Fukuyama wrote an essay called "The End of History." Its theme was that "the triumph of the West," of capitalism, would usher in an epoch of global stability.

As the corporate media oohed and aahed over Fukuyama's words, a Defense Department employee was engaged in a different task. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. Central Command, was drawing up plans to attack Iraq.

The general was carrying on a family tradition. His father, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf Sr., first served in Iran in the 1940s. He organized the shah's brutal security forces and helped crush independent republics in Azerbaijan and Kurdistan. During the 1953 coup, he was liaison between the CIA, the shah and Iranian security officials. After the coup, Schwarzkopf Sr. trained the shah's dreaded secret police, later known as SAVAK.

Gen. Schwarzkopf Jr. drew up his war plans more than a year before Iraqi troops entered Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. That Iraqi action was deliberately provoked by Kuwait's British-installed royal family and manipulated by the first Bush regime.



A partially constructed gas refinery at the South Pars gas field in Asalouyeh, Iran, on January 22, 2014.

(A detailed description of Washington's maneuvers can be found in the book "The Fire This Time" by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.)

On Aug. 6, 1990, the U.S. pushed sanctions against Iraq through the U.N. Security Council. Five million barrels a day disappeared from the world market. The sanctions were followed by a devastating U.S. bombing campaign against the Iraqi people. The U.S. military has been at war in West Asia and North Africa ever since.

It's not the oil, it's the money

In January 1991, as the U.S. war machine began bombing Iraq, hundreds of thousands marched in Washington chanting, "No blood for oil!" It's a catchy slogan but a misleading one.

Iraqi troops withdrew from Kuwait on Feb. 27. U.S. planes napalmed retreating soldiers and civilian refugees on Highway 8, the "highway of death," killing thousands. But the Bush regime did not seize Iraq's oil fields. Nor did it allow Iraq's oil back on the world market. Instead it—and the Democratic and Republican administrations that followed—bombed and sanctioned Iraq for 12 more years.

A December 1995 U.N. report found that sanctions had caused the death of 587,000 Iraqi children. Commenting on the deaths, Bill Clinton's secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, told CBS 60 Minutes, "We think the price is worth it."

The tragedy in Iraq was indeed worth it to the U.S. corporate ruling class, especially those most invested in oil. They had "won" the Cold War. But their "victory" only intensified the crisis of their system.

Big Oil desperately needed respite from the oil glut of the 1980s. That glut, aggravated by Saudi and Kuwaiti overproduction, seriously damaged the Soviet economy. But it also played havoc with oil profits.

The end of the Soviet bloc's planned economy and state-owned industries drove down the price of labor on a world scale. It opened up new markets for the U.S. dollar and for capitalist investment and exploitation.

It however caused a huge drop in global demand, threatening to drive energy prices lower still. And it left the U.S. military-industrial complex without an enemy to justify bloated budgets and new contracts. The children of Iraq were collateral damage in a desperate attempt by the wealthiest U.S. corporations to salvage their bottom line. ■

Why Hiroshima and Nagasaki were incinerated

By Stephen Millies

Barack Obama visited Hiroshima on May 27, 2016, the first sitting U.S. president to do so. Obama's visit to the Japanese city revived the question of whether killing hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atom bombs was a military necessity.

Dwight Eisenhower didn't think so. The former president and five-star general wrote in his autobiography "Mandate for Change" that dropping atom bombs on Japan "was completely unnecessary." Ike claimed that he said this to War Secretary Henry Stimson.

General Curtis LeMay told a Sept. 20, 1945, news conference, "The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all." Even President Truman declared that dropping the bombs "did not win the war." ("Hiroshima in America, Fifty Years of Denial") by Robert Lifton and Greg Mitchell)

A big reason why Japan surrendered was that the Soviet Army and Mongolian, Korean and Chinese allies rolled through northeastern China and all of Korea. This not only destroyed the biggest Japanese army

but threatened a socialist revolution in Japan itself.

Yet talking heads at Fox News still claim that burning babies alive in Hiroshima and Nagasaki "saved the lives of U.S. soldiers" by averting an amphibious invasion of Japan.

Complete barbarism

After breaching the walls of a besieged city, Roman soldiers killed or enslaved every human being they could find. Even cats were sliced in two. Among their victims was the famous mathematician Archimedes, killed by a legionnaire after Syracuse in Sicily was overrun in 212 BCE (Before the Common Era).

Two thousand years later, international law was supposed to prevent such war crimes. Nazi leaders were hanged in Nuremberg for deliberately killing civilians.

But U.S. war leaders committed war crimes, too. General LeMay burned alive over 100,000 people during the March 9-10, 1945, fire-bombing of Tokyo.

At least 200,000 people, including thousands of children, were killed by the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki three days later. Even decades later people died from radiation-caused illnesses.

A diplomat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea told this writer that 30,000 of the people killed in Hiroshima were Korean forced laborers. Truman murdered these Korean workers held hostage by the Japanese emperor and big business.

President Teddy Roosevelt turned Korea over to the Japanese Empire in the 1905 peace treaty, signed in Portsmouth, N.H., that ended the Russian-Japanese war. Teddy got a Nobel Peace Prize for his crime.

People's Korea has found it absolutely necessary to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself against the Pentagon. This is not only because of U.S. nuclear missiles aimed at Korea.

At least 4 million Koreans were killed during the Korean war. Using napalm and white phosphorous bombs on human flesh didn't satisfy U.S. generals and politicians. Then Texas Congressperson Lloyd



USSR deterred nuclear war

The Manhattan Project was Wall Street's response to the phoenix-like resurrection of the Red Army. The U.S. and British ruling classes dreaded Soviet forces marching all

the way to Paris and being welcomed by workers.

Capitalists also feared a revival of the German working class who had been crushed by Hitler.

During World War II, Time magazine publisher Henry Luce proclaimed an upcoming "American Century." The Pentagon was planning to confront the USSR not just with the bomb, but also with military forces numbering 16 million GIs and the biggest air force in history.

This immense power was also to be used against the Chinese Revolution and as a threat to all oppressed people.

Super-racist U.S. General George Patton talked about rearming Nazi SS troops and marching to the Volga. Winston Churchill considered an invasion of the Soviet Union in "Operation Unthinkable."

The U.S. had half the world's industrial capacity in 1945. President Kennedy correctly noted in 1963 that the Nazi destruction of the Soviet Union would have equaled everything in the United States east of the Mississippi River being destroyed.

But the millions of GIs whom Wall Street wanted to use against the Soviet Union wanted to go home. Even though it was still a Jim Crow army, tens of thousands of soldiers demonstrated in Paris, Manila and other cities demanding to go home. This GI revolt was the greatest gift of the U.S. working class to the world revolution — and probably the least known.

Despite billions of aid lavished on Chiang Kai-shek, the Pentagon couldn't stop the Chinese Revolution.

The only reason that a nuclear holocaust hasn't destroyed humankind is that the Soviet Union, at tremendous cost, was able to develop a deterrent nuclear force against a Pentagon attack.

Strategic Air Command head Curtis LeMay and Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lyman Lemnitzer both wanted to launch a nuclear first strike on the Soviet Union. In 1968 LeMay was George Wallace's running mate during the segregationist's fascist presidential campaign.

LeMay actually had hydrogen-bomb-equipped planes continually in the air ready to attack. Inevitable crashes happened, including one off Spain's Mediterranean coast in 1966. It took 12 weeks and over 20 naval ships to recover the bomb.

A 1958 accident dropped a Mark 15 thermonuclear bomb off the Atlantic Coast of Georgia. It has never been recovered.

That unexploded bomb is a real threat to people in the U.S., not the small number of nuclear weapons that People's Korea needs to defend itself. ■

End sanctions on Zimbabwe

Continued from page 3

protecting national sovereignty. ZDERA falsely states that the small, landlocked nation of Zimbabwe is a 'threat to the national security of the United States.' The U.S. sanctions must end now. It is a matter of life and death.

"This bold and united action by SADC on October 25th will help mobilize Africa and the Pan-African community against the criminal intent of sanctions — a Western weapon against the self-determination of developing countries — and further expose Western efforts at re-colonization," Clay concluded.

Incoming SADC chair, Tanzanian President Dr. John Magufuli, stated in his closing remarks to the summit, "We are all aware, this brotherly and sisterly country has been on sanctions for a long time. These sanctions have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe and their government but our entire region."

On Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, the December 12th Movement will lead a March and Rally to End the Sanctions in Zimbabwe at the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza on 47th Street and First Avenue, New York City.

All 193 member states of the U.N. are represented in this unique forum to discuss and work together on international issues covered by the U.N. Charter, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc.

For more information please call the December 12th Movement at (718) 398-1766 or D12M.com. ■



The United States detonated two nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. Top, the intensity of the explosion burnt the shadow of child into a wall.

The New Cold War Against China

By Fred Goldstein

During the Cold War and the struggle that put the USSR and China on one side and imperialism headed by Washington on the other side, revolutionaries used to characterize the conflict as a class war between two irreconcilable social systems.

There was the socialist camp, based upon socialized property, economic planning for human need and the government monopoly of foreign trade on the USSR-China side, and capitalism, a system of production for profit, on the other.

That the two systems were irreconcilable was at the bottom of the conflict dubbed the Cold War. In light of the current sharpening economic, diplomatic, political and military conflict between U.S. imperialism and the People's Republic of China (PRC), it is time to revive the concepts that were applied during the height of the Cold War.

Of course it is necessary to make modifications in these formulations with respect to socialism in China, with its mix of controlled capitalism and guided socialism.

Nevertheless, the conflict between imperialist capitalism, headed by Washington, Wall Street and



China's first woman astronaut.

the Pentagon, and the Chinese socialist economic system, which has state-owned industry at its core and planned economic guidance, is becoming much sharper, and imperialism is growing more openly hostile.

U.S. imperialism's long-standing effort to overthrow socialism in China, Chinese capitalism notwithstanding, has been concealed beneath sugary bourgeois phrases about so-called "common interests" and "economic collaboration." But this kind of talk is coming to an end.

Washington's first campaign to overthrow China — 1949-1975

This struggle has been ongoing since 1949, when the Chinese Red Army drove U.S. puppet Chiang Kai-shek and his nationalist army from the mainland as it retreated to Taiwan under the protection of the Pentagon.

The conflict continued through the Korean War, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the U.S. high command drove the U.S. troops to the Chinese border and threatened atomic war. Only the defeat of the U.S. military by the heroic Korean people under the leadership of Kim Il Sung, with the aid of the Chinese Red Army, stopped the U.S. invasion of China.

The struggle further continued with the U.S. war against Vietnam. The war's strategic goal was to overthrow the socialist government of Vietnam in the north and drive to the border of China to complete the military encirclement of the PRC.



China's tree city.

Only the world-historic efforts of the Vietnamese people under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh stopped the Pentagon in its tracks.

The Pentagon's plans for military conquest failed

With the rise of Deng Xiaoping and the opening up of China to foreign investment beginning in December 1978, Wall Street began to reevaluate its strategy. The U.S. ruling class began to take advantage of the opening up of China to foreign investment and the permission for private capitalism to function, which could both enrich U.S. corporations in the massive Chinese market and at the same time penetrate the Chinese economy with a long-range view to overturning socialism.

U.S. multinational corporations set up operations in China, hiring millions of low-wage Chinese workers, who flocked to the coastal cities from the rural areas. These operations were part of a broader effort by the U.S. capitalists to set up low-wage global supply chains that integrated the Chinese economy into the world capitalist market. The U.S.'s recent sharp turn aimed at breaking up this economic integration with the Chinese economy, including the witch hunt against Chinese scientists and the U.S. Navy's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea (called the Eastern Sea by Vietnam), is an admission that the economic phase of the U.S. attempt to bring counterrevolution to China has failed.

China is now a growing counterweight to Washington in international economics, high technology, diplomacy and regional military might in the Pacific, which the Pentagon has always considered to be a "U.S. lake" ruled by the Seventh Fleet.

The attack on Huawei

A dramatic illustration of the developing antagonisms is the way the U.S. had Meng Wanzhou, the deputy chairwoman and chief financial officer of Huawei, arrested in Canada for supposed violations of U.S. sanctions against Iran — an outrageous example of imperialism exercising extraterritoriality. The Trump ad-

ministration has also leveled sanctions against Huawei electronics, the world's largest supplier of high-tech operating systems in the world. Huawei employs 180,000 workers and is the second largest cell phone manufacturer in the world after the south Korean-based Samsung.

The sanctions are part of the U.S. campaign to stifle China's development of the latest version of data-transmission technology known as Fifth Generation or 5G.

The Trump administration has barred U.S. companies from selling supplies to Huawei, which has been using Google's Android operating system for its equipment and Microsoft for its laptop products — both U.S.-based companies. Huawei is contesting the U.S. ban in court.

Meanwhile, as a backup plan in case Washington bans all access to Android and Microsoft, Huawei has quietly spent years building up an operating system of its own. Huawei developed its alternative operating system after a 2012 finding by Washington that Huawei and ZTE, another Chinese giant cell phone maker, were in criminal violation of U.S. "national security." ZTE was forced to shut down for four months. (South China Morning Post, March 24, 2019)

But the conflict is about more than just Huawei and ZTE.

The new 'red scare' in Washington

The New York Times of July 20, 2019, carried a front page article entitled, "The New Red Scare in Washington."

A few excerpts give the flavor:

"In a ballroom across from the Capitol building, an unlikely group of military hawks, populist crusaders, Chinese Muslim freedom fighters and followers of the Falun Gong has been meeting to warn anyone who will listen that China poses an existential threat to the United States that will not end until the Communist Party is overthrown.

"If the warnings sound straight out of the Cold War, they are. The Committee on the Present Danger, a long-defunct group that campaigned against the dangers of the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, has recently been revived with the help of Stephen K. Bannon, the president's former chief strategist, to warn against the dangers of China.

"Once dismissed as xenophobes and fringe elements, the group's members are finding their views increasingly embraced in President Trump's Washington, where skepticism and mistrust of China have taken hold. Fear of China has spread across the government, from the White House to Congress to federal agencies."

The Trump administration has opened up a tariff war against the PRC, imposing a 25-percent tariff on \$250 billion worth of Chinese exports and threatening tariffs on another \$300 billion. But there is much more to Washington's campaign than just tariffs.

The FBI and officials from the NSC (National Security Council) have been conducting a witch hunt, continues the Times article, "particularly at universities and research institutions. Officials from the FBI and the National Security Council have been dispatched to Ivy League universities to warn administrators to be vigilant against Chinese students."

And according to the Times there are concerns that this witch hunt "is stoking a new red scare, fueling discrimination against students, scientists and companies with ties to China and risking the collapse of a fraught but deeply enmeshed trade relationship between the world's two largest economies." (New York Times, July 20, 2019)

FBI criminalizes cancer research

According to a major article in the June 13, 2019, Bloomberg News, "Ways of working that have long been encouraged by the NIH [Na-

Continued on the next page



Planting trees in China.

tional Institutes of Health] and many research institutions, particularly MD Anderson [a major cancer treatment center and research institute in Houston], are now quasi-criminalized, with FBI agents reading private emails, stopping Chinese scientists at airports, and visiting people's homes to ask about their loyalty.

"Xifeng Wu, who has been investigated by the FBI, joined MD Anderson while in graduate school and gained renown for creating several so-called study cohorts with data amassed from hundreds of thousands of patients in Asia and the U.S. The cohorts, which combine patient histories with personal biomarkers such as DNA characteristics and treatment descriptions, outcomes, and even lifestyle habits, are a gold mine for researchers.

"She was branded an oncological double agent."

The underlying accusation against Chinese scientists in the U.S. is that their research can lead to patentable medicines or cures, which in turn can be sold at enormous profits.

The Bloomberg article continues, "In recent decades, cancer research has become increasingly globalized, with scientists around the world pooling data and ideas to jointly study a disease that kills almost 10 million people a year. International collaborations are an intrinsic part of the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Moonshot program, the government's \$1 billion blitz to double the pace of treatment discoveries by 2022. One of the program's tag lines is: 'Cancer knows no borders.'

"Except, it turns out, the borders around China. In January, Wu, an award-winning epidemiologist and naturalized American citizen, quietly stepped down as director of the Center for Public Health and Translational Genomics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center after a three-month investigation into her professional ties in China. Wu's resignation, and the departures in recent months of three other top Chinese-American scientists from Houston-based MD Anderson, stem from a Trump administration drive to counter Chinese influence at U.S. research institutions. ... The collateral effect, however, is to stymie basic science, the foundational research that underlies new medical treatments. Everything is commodified in the economic cold war with China, including the struggle to find a cure for cancer."

Big surprise. A world famous Chinese epidemiologist, trying to find a cure for cancer, collaborates with scientists in China!

Looking for the 'reformers' and the counterrevolution

For decades, the Chinese Communist Party has had changes of leadership every five years. These changes have been stable and managed peacefully. With each changeover, so-called "China experts" in the State Department in Washington think-tanks and U.S. universities have predicted the coming to power of a new "reformist" wing that will deepen capitalist reforms and lay the basis for an eventual full-scale capitalist counterrevolution.

To be sure, there has been a steady erosion of China's socialist institutions. The "iron rice bowl" which guaranteed a living to Chinese workers has been eliminated in private

enterprises. Numerous state factories and enterprises have been sold off to the detriment of the workers, and in the rural areas land was de-collectivized.

One of the biggest setbacks for socialism in China and one which truly gladdened the hearts of the prophets of counterrevolution, was the decision by the Jiang Jemin CCP leadership to allow capitalists into the Chinese Communist Party in 2001.

As the New York Times wrote at the time, "This decision raises the possibility of Communists co-opting capitalists — or of capitalists co-opting the party." (New York Times, Aug. 13, 2001) It was the latter part that the capitalist class has been looking forward to and striving for with fervent anticipation for almost four decades.

But on balance, this capitalist takeover has not materialized. Chinese socialism, despite the capitalist inroads into the economy, has proved far more durable than Washington ever imagined.

And, under the Xi Jinping leadership, the counterrevolution seems to be getting further and further away. It is not that Xi Jinping has become a revolutionary internationalist and a champion of proletarian control. But it has become apparent that China's status in the world is completely connected to its social and economic planning.

Posted to lowwagecapitalism.com on July 26, 2019.



SLL PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

Dr. Mychal Odom speaks at San Diego's Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center on August 11.

Black August commemorated

Continued from page 7

is to fire the current police chief. Williamson is a people's candidate who promises to open up this government and make sure everybody counts.

The program was lengthy and, unfortunately, there was no time left for questions, comments or discussion. But each attendee received a pamphlet containing several articles reprinted from an international socialist publication, Struggle-La Lucha, whose website can be found online. There was no charge for the pamphlet, only a request that people use it to help raise the political consciousness of family, friends and neighbors.

Black August 2019 was co-sponsored by The Black August Organizing Committee and the Committee Against Police Brutality. This program was supported by the Friends



La FIDIM/WIDF (Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres en Windhoek, Namibia.

Informe de Liz Toledo al comité directivo mundial de la FIDIM/WIDF

Situación de las mujeres en EUA

Continua de página 7

opresión, que no son los hombres de clase trabajadora, sino el sistema capitalista que les roba a las trabajadoras jóvenes, y a todos los trabajadores y personas oprimidas, sus derechos básicos y oportunidades."

"Deseamos difundir una visión colectiva de una sociedad en la que las mujeres y las niñas jóvenes estén empoderadas y tienen las herramientas para lograr la liberación

total del patriarcado, todas las formas de violencia de género y sexual y la explotación capitalista. Ahora es el momento para que las mujeres jóvenes, las niñas y las personas LGBTQ2S de la clase trabajadora se unan en la lucha," dice Miranda de Mujeres en Lucha y Juventud Contra la Guerra y el Racismo.

La condición de la mujer en Estados Unidos sigue siendo una lucha. Las mujeres han estado y continúan estando en la primera línea de las luchas por la liberación de todas las personas. Somos trabajadoras sindicales que luchan para aumentar el salario mínimo a \$15 y por la igualdad salarial. Estamos en el movimiento de Derechos Em/Migrantes exigiendo que terminen las separaciones familiares y abolir la policía de ICE (Inmigración y Control de Aduanas).

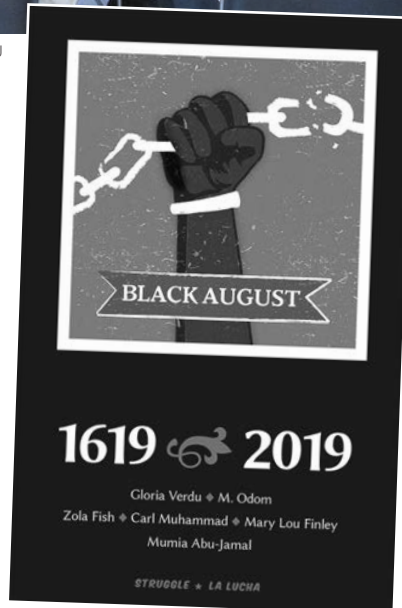
Mientras que en El Paso, Texas, y Dayton, Ohio, las comunidades enterraron a sus muertos por tiroteos racistas, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos arrestó a 800 trabajadores en sus trabajos en las fábricas de procesamiento de pollo de Mississippi. Sus hijos se quedaron sin sus padres en su primer día de escuela, pero los propietarios multimillonarios racistas que explotan a estos trabajadores no fueron arrestados para contratar trabajadores indocumentados.

Estamos en las calles exigiendo el fin del encarcelamiento masivo y abolir el sistema policial opresivo que solo sirve a los ricos y poderosos que continúan matando a jóvenes negros y marrones a voluntad y con impunidad.

Estamos entre los luchadores por la liberación LGBTQ2S. Stonewall 50 se celebró el pasado 30 de junio en la ciudad de Nueva York, cuando delegados de todo el mundo vinieron a celebrar el 50 aniversario del nacimiento del movimiento LGBTQ2S moderno.

Organizamos y luchamos para poner fin a la violencia sexual y doméstica de cualquier tipo dirigida a mujeres y niñas. Somos antibélicas y antiimperialistas. Incluso con la bota del imperialismo estadounidense en nuestros cuellos, seguimos defendiendo a Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Irán, Siria, Irak, Zimbabue, Palestina, Cuba y la República Popular Democrática de Corea contra la agresión estadounidense. ¡Fin a las guerras imperialistas! ¡Viva la clase obrera internacional!

Traducción de M.E. Duno



Pamphlet published for the historic Black August Commemoration.

of the Malcolm X Library, who contributed to the delicious food and the Black August books, quotes and images in the display at the library's entrance.

See "From the Terrible Transformation to the Creation of the Negro: A Black Socialist Analysis of the First Century of Slavery in North America" by Matsemela Odom at <https://tinyurl.com/1619part2>



LOS FUEGOS DE LAS AMAZONAS

¿Cómo es que esto esté pasando en tan grande escala?

Por: Jefferson Azevedo

En 1992, líderes de varios países se reunieron en Río de Janeiro, Brasil, a discutir cooperación mutua postguerra fría para desarrollo internacional. Los temas ambientales fueron el tema principal.

En su discurso en esta junta, Fidel Castro, advirtió sobre la destrucción de la selva amazónica. Fidel señaló que una sociedad basada en consumismo es el culpable fundamental y que está orientado por la vieja metrópoli colonial y las políticas imperialistas que generaron la pobreza y el subdesarrollo que asaltan a la gran mayoría de la humanidad. También cuestionó qué, sin la supuesta amenaza del comunismo y — por lo tanto, sin el pretexto para la guerra fría, lo que está impidiendo que las naciones ricas y desarrolladas inviertan todos los recursos gastados en armas, que se gastarán en el desarrollo del Tercer Mundo, con pólizas que eliminarán el hambre, la pobreza y la destrucción ecológica del planeta.

Los reciente fuegos en la parte Brasileña de la selva amazónica son sólo el último y mayor golpe para el “Gigante Verde.” Después de ver videos en la televisión, en las redes sociales y en varios sitios web en todo el mundo, personas de todas partes de la tierra han reaccionado.

Todos se preguntan, cómo es que esto esté pasando en tan grande escala? ¿Quién está detrás de esto? ¿Porque es que el gobierno brasileño se ha quedado callado acerca de los incendios en la selva amazónica desde julio y no están haciendo nada concreto para extinguirlos?

El silencio se debe a la participación del gobierno, aunque indirecta, en él. Durante su campaña presidencial, Jair Bolsonaro, habló muchas veces sobre la necesidad de desregular, aflojar y/o simplemente poner fin a muchas de las leyes y regulaciones que obstaculizaron la explotación de la Amazonía.

A la segunda pregunta, la respues-



Bosque pluvial amazónico desde el espacio, con puntos rojos que representan un incendio o “anomalía térmica”.

FOTO: NASA WORLDVIEW

emplazandola Michel Temer, un buen amigo de las oligarcas, que allanaron el camino para la continuación de la destrucción de la Amazonía que, lamentablemente, continúa ardiendo.

En un estudio titulado “O Futuro Climático da Amazônia,” un científico brasileño llamado Antonio Nobre, discute que los árboles son más importantes para la sobrevivencia de nuestro planeta de lo que la mayoría de la gente piensa. Nobre, que también es un miembro del Instituto Nacional de Investigación Espacial (INPE), afirma que el agua que se evapora de los árboles, que se saca del suelo, disminuye la presión atmosférica cuando se condensa. Debido a la menor presión atmosférica, el aire húmedo del océano ingresa al continente creando un enorme flujo de agua vaporizada.

Este fenómeno se llama un “río volador.” Este río volador es más grande que cualquier otro río y a medida que se disuelve, se convierte en lluvia, no solo en el bosque sino en todo el continente. Sin los árboles para sacar el agua del suelo, la presión atmosférica aumentará, enviando así toda el agua al océano y, finalmente, creando un desierto donde alguna vez existió el bosque más grande de la tierra.

¿Quién es responsable?

En cuanto a la cuestión de quién tiene la culpa, primero tenemos que decir quien no tiene la culpa. El pueblo no tiene la culpa.

El presidente brasileño Bolsonaro pone la culpa por estos incendios criminales sobre las organizaciones ambientalistas no gubernamentales y las personas que defienden el bosque.

Aunque no directamente prendió el fuego, es Bolsonaro quien es responsable. Él es culpable por dismantelar y desembolsar a propósito las agencias que estaban evitando la destrucción masiva del medio ambiente en Brasil. Él es culpable por su uso de palabras que empoderan a aquellos que ganan de ellos y que garantizan la impunidad de sus crímenes. También es culpable por haber puesto a Ricardo Salles como el ministro de ambiente, un hombre que declaró que las Amazonas debe de ser explotado y quien, según The Intercept, falsificó documentos para beneficiar a las empresas mineras. Es culpable, junto con los oligarcas que, a través del dinero y la influencia, todavía hacen creer a muchos trabajadores brasileños que lo que es bueno para los patrones es bueno para ellos. La lucha de las Amazonas representa la lucha, no solo del pueblo brasileño, pero también de todo Latinoamérica y el Caribe que, después de siglos de devastaciones, lucha por su supervivencia, su hábitat, su cultura e incluso la lluvia. 🇧🇷

ta es que el gobierno simplemente no quiere. Quieren dejar que la selva tropical se queme tanto como sea posible porque ese es el deseo de los grandes jefes de los negocios agrícolas, cárnicos y minerales. Brasil es el mayor exportador mundial de carne de res, soja, café y azúcar. También es uno de los más grandes exportadores de minerales en sus formas naturales.

En una economía capitalista, industrias tan ricas y poderosas tienen mucho control sobre las decisiones de formulación de políticas. Brasil no es diferente.

Con todo el dinero que tienen el negocio agropecuario desarrolló el lobby más poderoso de la historia del Congreso brasileño: el lobby rural o la Bancada Ruralista en portugués. Entre los objetivos principales del lobby rural están el perdón de las deudas contraídas por los agricultores, la expansión de las tierras cultivables y el fin de la demarcación de las tierras de los pueblos indígenas, porque consisten de uno de los obstáculos mayores para la expansión de sus negocios.

El Frente Agrícola Parlamentario (FPA) tiene el 40 por ciento de los representantes peleando por los intereses de grandes terratenientes y grandes agronegocios. Estos jefes irán a cualquier extremo o tomarán

cualquier medidas para lograr sus objetivos, incluso matar personas o quemar un área más grande que muchos países. Nada es aprobado, o hecho, en el congreso brasileño sin el permiso del FPA.

La ex presidenta Dilma Rousseff no habría sido desplegada por falsos cargos de infracción y Lula no habría sido arrestada por cargos falsos sin el apoyo de este lobby. También, Bolsonaro no habrá sido elegido o no estuviera todavía en el palacio presidencial. Esto explica su silencio y su inercia con respecto al fuego que ha estado consumiendo una de las mayores maravillas de este planeta y el hábitat de una amplia variedad de especies vivas. Con cinco millones kilómetros cuadrados, la selva amazónica engloba una área más grande que la Unión Europea y que ocupa más de la mitad del territorio brasileño. Hogar de veinticinco millones de habitantes, una quinta parte de las plantas y animales de la tierra, y aproximadamente trescientos noventa mil millones de árboles, las Amazonas ha sido atacado desde que el primer colonizador pisó su suelo.

Deforestación de las Amazonas— con el uso de motosierras o fuego— nada nuevo para lxs indígenas o el pueblo local. Las tribus indígenas, además de lidiar con la invasión de sus tierras y el asesinato de su gente, ahora también tienen que luchar contra la presión ejercida sobre las autoridades para poner fin a la demarcación de sus tierras, abriendo así aún más las puertas a los terratenientes y sus matones. Sin representación en el congreso, sus súplicas son escuchadas solo por unos pocos.

La deforestación de las Amazonas se zambulló durante diez años durante la administración del ex presidente Lula da Silva y Dilma Rousseff, pero subió otra vez durante el segundo término de este último, que coincidió con la crecimiento del Lobby Rural, que eligió alrededor del 44 por ciento del congreso.

En 2016, la deforestación tuvo su crecimiento más grande con un aumento del 29 por ciento.

Esto paso directamente después del coup que sacó a Dilma Rousseff, re-

Although not directly setting the fires, it is Bolsonaro himself who is responsible. He is guilty for purposely dismantling and defunding the agencies that were preventing the massive destruction of the environment in Brazil. He is guilty for his use of words that empower the ones who profit from it and for guaranteeing the impunity of their crimes.

He’s also guilty for placing Ricardo Salles as minister of the environment, a man who stated that the Amazon should be exploited and who, according to The Intercept, forged documents to benefit mining companies. He is guilty along with the oligarchs who, through money and influence, still make many Brazilian workers believe that what is good for the bosses is good for them.

The struggle of the Amazon represents the struggle, not only of the Brazilian people, but also of all Latin America and the Caribbean that, after centuries of devastations, fight for their survival, their habitat, their culture and even the rain. 🇧🇷

Amazon fires

Continued from page 1

ic pressure when condensed. Due to the lower atmospheric pressure, the moist air from the ocean enters the continent creating a huge flow of vaporized water.

This phenomenon is called a “flying river.” This flying river is bigger than any other river and, as it dissolves, turns into rain, not only in the forest but all over the continent. Without the trees to pull the water out of the ground, the atmospheric pressure will rise, thus sending all the water to the ocean and eventually creating a desert where once existed the largest forest on earth.

Who is responsible?

As to the question of who is to blame, first we must say who is not to blame. The people are not to blame.

Brazilian President Bolsonaro puts the blame for the criminal fires on the environmentalist nongovernmental organizations and people who defend the forest.

